ments in the Act regarding restoration of minority character and autonomy of the university; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. A representation in this regard has been received from President, Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union.

(b) The matter has been examined and it has been decided not to make any changes in the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988.

Tropical Rain Forests

3449. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the areas of tropical rain forests in the coutnry;

(b) whether there is any proposal for the protection of such forests;

(c) if so, details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The tropical rain forests of the country extend over about 5.12 million ha, as per the State Forest Report 1987, and are found in North Eastern States, Western Ghats (Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra), Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Goa.

(b) and (c). The following initiatives and measures have been taken to protect such forests:

1. *The National forest Policy, 1988,* lays more emphases on conservation of forests. There are specific provisions for protection of forests from grazing, fires and encroachment.

2. Forests (Conservation) Act was enacted in 1980 to check diversion of forests land for non-forestry purposes. The Act has been made more stringent by an amendment of 1988.

3. A Centrally sponsored scheme is under implementation to help the States to develop infrastructure for protection of forest against biotic interference.

4. Guidelines have been issued to State/UT Govts. from time to time for protection of forests. Some of these guidelines are as follows:-

(i) To avoid felling of natural forests and where such felling is inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural considerations, it should be restricted to an area not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of felling in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) To set apart 4% of the geographical area as protected area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parts, biosphere reserve etc.

5. Massive afforestation, Social & Farm forestry including integrated Watershed Scheme under 20 Point Programme is being carried out in all states/Uts.

(d) Does not arise.

Overhauling of Coaches

3450. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: *Will the Minister of RAILWAYS* be pleased to state: